

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128280

EXDIS TOSEC 241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (HENRY A. KISSINGER)

SUBJECT:MEMORANDA FROM SHALEV

FOR ATHERTON FROM SISCO

1. SHALEV HAS GIVEN ME TWO MEMORANDUMS AND REQUESTED THAT THEY BE PASSED ON TO THE SECRETARY. THE FIRST CONCERNS THE SEARCH FOR MISSING BODIES IN THE CANAL AREA AND THE SECOND CONCERNS THE TREATMENT OF ISRAELI POW'S IN SYRIA. SHALEV ALSO ASKED THAT THE LATTER MEMO BE PASSED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT. TEXTS FOLLOW:
BEGIN QTE.
SEARCH FOR THE MISSING BODIES ON SUEZ CANAL

FURTHER TO THE MEMORANDUM ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT WHICH AMBASSADOR DINITZ SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY ON JUNE 8, 1974, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, WE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO PASS THE FOLLOWING ON TO THE SECRETARY:

1. ON MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1974, THE ISRAEL ADJUTANT-GENERAL MET WITH HIS EGYPTIAN COLLEAGUE, AND, UNFORTUNATELY, CAME UP AGAINST A STIFFER EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE ON THE ISSUE OF
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THE CONTINUED SEARCH FOR THE MISSING BODIES OF ISRAELI

SOLDIERS. THE EGYPTIANS AGREED THAT THE SEARCHES CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER WEEK ONLY AND THEY REFUSED TO FACILITATE THE SEARCHES ALONG THE LINES SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE MEMORANDUM.

2. WE HAVE PRECISE INFORMATION ON A NUMBER OF CASES ON THE BASIS OF WHICH WE THINK IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO LOCATE THE PLACES WHERE BODIES OF ISRAEL SOLDIERS WERE BURIED. THIS INFORMATION REFERS TO 10 (TEN) AIR CREW AND 22 (TWENTY-TWO) OTHER PERSONNEL. ON ONE OCCASION, E.G., THE COMMANDER OF THE THIRD ARMY TOLD A U.N. OFFICER THAT HE KNOWS THE BURIAL PLACE OF 30 ISRAEL SOLDIERS.

ON HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL, THE SECRETARY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH DETAILED INFORMATION ON ALL OF THESE CASES. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IF THE SECRETARY WERE TO OBTAIN PRESIDENT SAADAT'S GOODWILL ON THIS ISSUE, AND THIS WAS MADE CLEAR TO THE EGYPTIAN OFFICERS IN THE FIELD, MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE BODIES THAT ARE STILL MISSING WOULD BE FOUND.

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARY PROPOSE TO PRESIDENT SAADAT THAT HE APPOINT A SPECIAL AIDE WHO HAS HIS FULL TRUST TO FOLLOW UP ON ALL THESE CASES IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CAIRO.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

12 JUNE 1974 END QTE.

BEGIN QTE.

SYRIAN TREATMENT OF ISRAEL P.O.W.'S

1. NOT ONLY DID THE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES GROSSLY VIOLATE THE STIPULATIONS OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION ON THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR; THEY BEHAVED TOWARDS THE ISRAELI PRISONERS IN A SAVAGE AND INHUMAN MANNER.

2. FOR FOUR AND ONE-HALF MONTHS THE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES WITHHELD THE NAMES OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR. FINALLY, THEY AGREED TO SUBMIT THE LISTS TO THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE (AND NOT THROUGH THE ICRC AS REQUIRED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTION), AND ONLY THEN WAS A RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE PERMITTED TO VISIT THEM.

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3. THE ICRC REPRESENTATIVES WHO VISITED THE POWS OFFICIALLY REPORTED THAT THEY WERE HELD IN PRISON UNDER SEVERELY OVER-CROWDED CONDITIONS LACKING VENTILATION, INADEQUATE SANITARY FACILITIES, MEAGER RATIONS, AND POOR TREATMENT OF THE WOUNDED. DURING MOST OF THEIR CAPTIVITY THE PRISONERS WERE PREVENTED FROM CORRESPONDING WITH THEIR FAMILIES, WERE PERMITTED ALMOST NO EXERCISE, AND THE WOUNDED WERE HELD IN THE SAME CELLS AS THE HEALTHY.

4. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE REPATRIATED POWS REVEALS THAT THE ICRC REPORT WAS INCOMPLETE. THE ACTUAL STATE OF THE POWS WAS IN FACT FAR WORSE THAN INDICATED IN THAT REPORT.

- IN A NUMBER OF CASES, SYRIAN SOLDIERS FIRED POINT-BLANK AT ISRAELI PILOTS THAT HAD BAILED OUT AND AT UNARMED SOLDIERS WHO HAD LAID DOWN THEIR WEAPONS.

- MEDICAL TREATMENT IN SYRIAN HOSPITALS WAS MINIMAL AND WITHOUT FOLLOW-UP. MOST OF THE WOUNDED WERE MOVED TO PRISON QUARTERS AND INTERROGATED WHILE STILL IN A SICK STATE, CAUSING THEREBY A DETERIORATION IN THEIR CONDITION.

- MENTAL AND PHYSICAL TORTURE DURING INTERROGATION WAS WIDELY PRACTICED. TORTURE INCLUDED: APPLYING ELECTRIC SHOCKS TO SENSITIVE REGIONS OF THE BODY INCLUDING SEXUAL ORGANS, EXTRACTION OF NAILS, BEATING AND WHIPPING, BLOWS ON OPEN WOUNDS, BURNING BY CIGARETTES, LONG PERIODS OF SHACKLING, ETC. THE EVIDENCE IS THAT TWO PRISONERS DIED UNDER TORTURE AND AT LEAST FIVE WERE MAIMED, AND THEIR LIMBS THAT WERE BROKEN AND TORN DURING INTERROGATION WERE SUBSEQUENTLY AMPUTATED BY THE SYRIANS.

- ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THE PRISONERS WHO FELL ILL WHILE IN PRISON RECEIVED ANY KIND OF MEDICAL CARE.

- A NUMBER OF POWS WERE DELIBERATELY DEALT BLOWS ON THEIR EARS SO AS TO DAMAGE THEIR HEARING CAPACITY. IN ONE CASE AN INJECTION WAS ADMINISTERED THAT CAUSED SERIOUS CLOUDING OF CONSCIOUSNESS FOR A NUMBER OF DAYS.

- ONE BODY OF A POW WAS RETURNED WITHOUT EARS AND,
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ACCORDING TO THE MEDICAL REPORT, THE EARS WERE SEVERED WHILE THE SOLDIER WAS STILL ALIVE.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

12 JUNE 1974

END QTE. SISCO

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